

News From U.S. Senator

North Dakota

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday

January 7, 2000

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DORGAN CALLS OSHA PLAN FOR TELECOMMUTERS "HAREBRAINED!"

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) — "Harebrained!" That's what U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) called the plan by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to extend its reach to the at-home offices of workers who are telecommuters.

"I support efforts to make sure we have safe workplaces in our country," Dorgan said. "But when employees work at home they have the responsibility for their safety. Neither the government nor employers should decide that they can intrude in the home to evaluate working conditions. That far exceeds the authority Congress has given OSHA."

"The new age of telecommuting does raise important and legitimate questions about responsibilities in the workplace, but the answer to those questions is not to have OSHA announce that they now have jurisdiction over working conditions in the home," he added. "This is an especially important issue for rural states where we hope that telecommuting will be an increasing source of new jobs in the future."

"The retreat on this matter announced by Labor Secretary Alexis Herman is the right step," Dorgan said.

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